

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (new): A container which comprises: a blow molded plastic container having a circular base, a cylindrical sidewall projecting upwardly from said base, a neck finish projecting upwardly and inwardly from said sidewall and having an opening to the inside of the container, wherein the neck finish includes an inwardly oriented stepped area adjacent said opening, said stepped area including an upper, outwardly extending flange which borders on the opening, said upper flange extending outwardly beyond the outward extension of the neck finish and inwardly of said sidewall, and wherein said neck finish having an outer surface and an inner surface, a downwardly extending flange extending downwardly from the inner surface of the outwardly extending flange and having an upper portion connected to the inner surface of the outwardly extending flange, and a lower portion opposed to the upper portion, and a lower inwardly extending flange connected to the lower portion of the downwardly extending flange and extending inwardly of said downwardly extend flange, with the inside surface of the inwardly extending flange including an inward projection.

Claim 24 (new): A container according to Claim 23, wherein said inward projection is rounded.

Claim 25 (new): A container according to Claim 23, wherein the sidewall includes a plurality of spaced apart, circumferential grooves extending around the sidewall.

Claim 26 (new): A container according to Claim 25, wherein said circumferential grooves are continuous.

Claim 27 (new): A container according to Claim 26, wherein said circumferential grooves are separated by raised areas.

Claim 28 (new): A container according to Claim 25, including a shoulder area on the upper end of the sidewall between the uppermost circumferential groove and the neck finish.

Claim 29 (new): A container according to Claim 28, wherein said sidewall extends outwardly of said shoulder area and said shoulder area extends outwardly of said outwardly extending flange.

Claim 30 (new): A container according to Claim 28, including a first label mounting flat area above the uppermost circumferential groove and a second label mounting area below the lowermost circumferential groove.

Claim 31 (new): A container according to Claim 23, wherein said opening is covered by a foil covering.

Claim 32 (new): A container according to Claim 23, wherein said opening is covered by a cap.

Claim 33 (new): A container according to Claim 27, including at least five of said spaced apart grooves.

Claim 34 (new): A container according to Claim 23, wherein the base includes a plurality of outwardly extending struts and a central recessed area.

Claim 35 (new): A container according to Claim 34, wherein a plurality of said struts extend from the edge of said base to the recessed area.

Claim 36 (new): A container according to Claim 34, wherein a plurality of said struts extend from the edge of said base part way to the recessed area.

Claim 37 (new): A container according to Claim 34, wherein said base includes longer struts which extend from the edge of the base to the recessed area and shorter struts which extend from the edge of said base part way to the recessed area.

Claim 38 (new): A container according to Claim 37, wherein said longer struts alternate with said shorter struts.

Claim 39 (new): A container according to Claim 23, wherein the container as blow molded includes said upper flange bordering on said opening.

Claim 40 (new): A container according to Claim 23, wherein said inward projection extends inwardly adjacent a downwardly extending wall portion.

Claim 41 (new): A container according to Claim 23, wherein said inward projection is connected to the upper portion of the inside surface of the inwardly extending flange.

Claim 42 (new): A container according to Claim 23, wherein said inwardly extending flange is connected to a downwardly extending portion, which in turn is connected to an outwardly extending shoulder portion which extends outwardly beyond the outward extension of said outwardly extending flange.